

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049661

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 0707 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS
ABABA CAIRO JIDDA KINSHASA MOGADISCIO 02 MAR 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0707

KINSHASA PASS AMB SEELYE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SU US

SUBJECT: GOS RECEPTION SEELYE REFLECTS GROWING CORDIALITY
USG/SUDAN TIES

1. DESPITE PREOCCUPATION WITH FEBRUARY 27-28 SADAD/ASSAD/
NIMEIRI SUMMIT, GOS RECEPTION DEPASSTSECY SEELYE DURING
FEBRUARY 26-28 VISIT COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN MORE CORDIAL.
AS MOST SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO VISIT SUDAN IN OVER THREE
YEARS, GOS CLEARLY DELIGHTED BY SEELYE'S ARRIVAL. TONE
WAS SET BY PLATOON SENIOR GOS OFFICIALS WHO GREETED SEELYE
ON ARRIVAL, WHICH INCLUDED NOT ONLY CHIEF PROTOCOL AND AMB.
TO US EISSA (WHO ESCORTED SEELYE AND AMBASSADOR ON ALL CALLS
THROUGHOUT STAY) BUT ALSO FONOFF U/SEC OSMAN EVEN THOUGH HE
SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE AT MINISTRY. FONMIN KHALID RECEIVED
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HIM FOR CORDIAL TALK AT HOME DESPITE HAVING HAD ONLY THREE
HOURS SLEEP PREVIOUS NIGHT, WHILE MINSTATE CABINET AFFAIRS
HAMID HOSTED DINNER IN SEELYE'S HONOR FEB. 28 THOUGH HE,
HIMSELF, HAD BEEN UP MOST OF PREVIOUS NIGHT WORKING ON
TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.

2. TALK WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI FEB 27, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR

ARRIVAL SADAD/ASSAD, WAS EXTENDED, RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. SEELYE ALSO MET WITH HAMID AND MINSTATE AGRICULTURE MEKKI, AND MINPLAN MUSTAFA AND FONOFF U/SEC OSMAN FEB. 28. BOTH THE APPOINTMENTS SELECTED AND TREATMENT GIVEN THEM IN GOS MEDIA UNDERSCORE GOS DESIRE FOR INCREASINGLY CORDIAL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND INTEREST IN MORE RAPID USG MOVEMENT ON ASSISTANCE FRONT. COINCIDENTAL GOS RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST IT INTERCEDE WITH AMIN AND DISPATCH SPECIAL SUDANESE EMISSARY TO KAMPALA WHO RETURNED WITH ASSURANCES SAFETY AMERICANS RESIDENT UGANDA NOT IN DANGER, ALSO SERVED UNDERSCORE NIMEIRI REGIME'S DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BEEFICIAL TIES. SOLE TOP OFFICIAL SEELYE DID NOT SEE WAS PRIMIN BAKR, BUT PROBABLY THIS REFLECTS KHALID/BAKR COMPETITION AND PRIMIN'S LACK OF IDENTIFICATION WITH RENEWAL USG/GOS RELATIONSHIP RATHER THAN ANY UNFRIENDLY SIGN BY SUDANESE.

3. OTHER THAN EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN OUR BILATERAL TIES, FACT SO LITTLE TIME WAS DEVOTED BY NIMEIRI AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS TO BILATERAL MATTERS UNDERLINES ABSENCE BILATERAL PROBLEMS. MOST OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS REVOLVED INSTEAD AROUND THREE CENTRAL SUDANESE CONCERNS: (A) UNSATISFACTORY ETHIOPIAN SITUATION; (B) OPPORTUNITY WHICH NOW EXISTS FOR WOOLING SOMALIA AWAY FROM USSR; AND (C) IMPORTANCE ERITREANS ACHIEVE "SELF-DETERMINATION" THROUGH "PEACEFUL MEANS". IT CLEAR THROUGHOUT THAT SUDANESE WOULD LIKE US TO PLAY GREATER ROLE IN HORN, TO COUNTER-BALANCE WHAT THEY SEE AS NEW SOVIET EFFORTS AND THAT USG MILITARY SUPPLIES TO EPMG WOULD NOT HELP IN THIS CONTEXT.

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4. DETAILS MAJOR DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY.
BREWER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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